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PAGE 01 CANBER 00105 070707Z

16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 030242

R 070635Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2288

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORT BARNARD'S NEW YORK SPEECH,
JANUARY 4, 1974.

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. WEEKEND AND MONDAY MORNING AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS ALL REPORT SUBSTANCE OF DEFMIN BARNARD'S SPEECH BEFORE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN NEW YORK JANUARY 4. EMPHASIS IS UPON BARNARD'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT AUSTRALIA CAN NO LONGER DEPEND UPON "POWERFUL FRIENDS" FOR ITS SECURITY AND THAT IT IS NO LONGER ABLE TO BE "JUNIOR PARTNER" OR CLIENT STATE IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. MOST PAPERS SUGGEST BARNARD HAS SPOKEN IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND FRANK FASHION TO AMERICAN AUDIENCE IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE CHANGES IN AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING PAST YEAR OF LABOR GOVERNMENT IN CANBERRA. MINOR ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO PURPOSE OF BARNARD'S VISIT TO THE US, I.E., NEGOTIATION OF CHANGES IN THE NORTHWEST CAPE STATION AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. LONGEST PRESENTATION OF BARNARD'S REMARKS IN NEW YORK APPEARED IN SYDNEY SUN-HERALD ON JANUARY 6, WHICH DEVOTED
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EQUIVALENT OF ONE-FULL PAGE, TABLOID-SIZE TO THIS SPEECH.

SUN-HERALD GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO "INDEPENDENT" NATURE OF NEW AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY. IT ATTEMPTS TO BALANCE THIS OUT SOMEWHAT, BY BARNARD'S APPARENT REFERENCE TO AUSTRALIA BELIEVING THE UNITED STATES WISHES ITS ALLIES TO BE MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND LESS DEPENDENT. THIS REPORT ALSO MENTIONS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO PLAY MORE RESPONSIBLE AND INDEPENDENT ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

3. WHILE MOST OTHER NEWSPAPERS CARRY STORIES ALONG SAME LINES AS SUN-HERALD AND IN EFFECT SEEM TO SUPPORT BARNARD'S REPORTEDLY DIRECT PRESENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENCE, EDITORIAL IN FINANCIAL REVIEW, JANUARY 7, CRITICIZES BOTH CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND FORMER GOVERNMENTS FOR SPARSENESS OF NATIONAL POLITICAL DEBATE OVER AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE POLICY. IMPORT OF THIS EDITORIAL IS THAT, DESPITE BARNARD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND PRESUMPTIVE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSIONS OF NORTHWEST CAPE NEGOTIATIONS, THE PLACE OF U.S. AND JOINT INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRALIA IN CONTEXT OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE POLICY STILL REMAINS OBSCURE. GOOD DEAL OF THIS EDITORIAL IS DEVOTED TO "NIT-PICKING" BOTH BARNARD'S AND OPPOSITION STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT OF DEFENSE DURING PAST YEAR. IT CONCLUDES THAT CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS MADE BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE POLICY HAVE LEFT AUSTRALIA WITH NO CONSISTENT OR LOGICAL POLICY.

4. AS MATTER OF COURSE, MOST NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORT REACTIONS TO BARNARD'S SPEECH OF OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED FOR BARNARD'S DISMISSAL ON GROUNDS OF INCOMPETENCE. SNEDDEN ATTACKED PORTIONS OF BARNARD'S SPEECH RELATED TO 'JUNIOR PARTNERSHIP' AND CLIENT STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AS "NONSENSE."

5. COMMENT: THERE IS CLEARLY AN AUDIENCE IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE KIND OF DIRECT APPROACH TO THE SUBJECT OF DEFENSE POLICY WHICH WAS REFLECTED IN BARNARD'S NEW YORK SPEECH. THE TABLOIDS LIKE THE SUN-HERALD UNDOUBTEDLY FIND SUCH SPEECHES PROVOCATIVE AND INDICATIVE OF AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENCE. MORE SOBER REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS EVIDENCED IN EDITORIAL NOTED ABOVE APPEARS TO HAVE LESS PUBLIC APPEAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER00105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740159/aaaacdwx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORT BARNARD'S NEW YORK SPEECH, JANUARY 4, 1974.
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, US, (BARNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005